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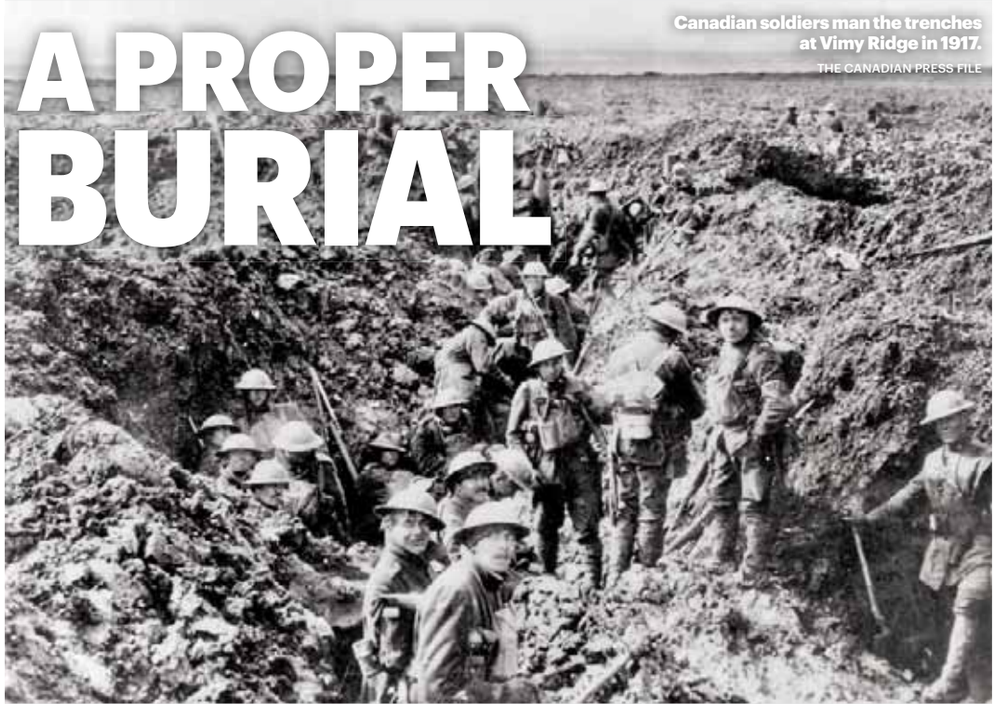
Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, JANUARY 8-10, 2016 | High -1°C/Low -5°C Cloudy



Canadian soldiers man the trenches at Vimy Ridge in 1917.
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

A PROPER BURIAL

Local historian sets out on mission to find missing remains of soldiers at Vimy Ridge

metroNEWS

Free overnight parking a bust

BYLAWS

Complimentary spaces during last week's snowstorm housed few cars

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Only 180 drivers took advantage of free parking at city-owned garages during the overnight parking ban last week.

Street parking was banned between 1 and 7 a.m. Dec. 30 after more than 20 centimetres of snow fell the previous day.

For the first time, the city opened four downtown garages overnight to make way for road-clearing crews, but only a fraction of on-street parkers took them up on it.

Thirteen drivers parked in Lot 4 on Clarence Street in the ByWard Market, while 40 parked at Dalhousie Street and Clarence. Another 52 parked under city hall and 75 parked in the Glebe.

"The numbers seem low," said Somerset Coun. Catherine McKenney.

Since the city also jacked winter parking permits to $140 a month to discourage drivers from avoiding the bans, McKenney said she was surprised more people didn't jump on the free opportunity.

"Maybe people just don't know about it yet," she said.

Bylaw officers wrote 1,800 parking tickets that same night, worth $95 each. About 1,400 permit holders were legally on the street, if last season's numbers are any indication.

All those cars create a big problem for the snow-clearing crews, McKenney said.

"You end up with these big snow bulb-outs onto the roadway and then if … it freezes you could end up with this obstruction for the rest of the winter," she said.

Precision Snow owner Kent Peddie said Ottawa could benefit from better real-time plow tracking so residents can get out of the way.

"People don't want to be swamped in by those graders," Peddie said.

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Iceman who lived 5,300 years ago offers scientists new information. **World**

RECONSTRUCTED IMAGE

INFRASTRUCTURE

Spending will help economy: Expert

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

More municipal infrastructure spending can't hurt a Canadian economy that's feeling the impacts of a low loonie, according to the Bank of Canada governor.

"Economists think of it as a good thing almost all the time because infrastructure is an ingredient to economic growth," said Stephen Poloz, while speaking at Ottawa City Hall on Thursday morning during the mayor's breakfast event.

Poloz's speech touched on the loonie's 2003-level low of less than 71 cents to the U.S. dollar, falling oil prices and the need to let the economy's problems "work themselves out."

The Bank of Canada will release a more detailed economic forecast in the coming weeks.

The part of Poloz's speech on municipal infrastructure spending struck a chord with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson.

"(It) really hit a home run from the municipal perspective," he said, after the speech. "He recognizes that in order to get us out of this economic slowdown, infrastructure is the quickest way to get people back to work."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has promised $125 billion in infrastructure spending over the next decade. Watson is hoping to harness a piece of that. He's meeting with new Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi next week.

Kanata residents boiling over local prices of gas

OIL

People should shop around for their fuel, say experts

The recent extremes in Ottawa gas prices have some Kanata residents riled over what they see as unfair pricing in their community — up to 15 cents a litre more than places like Bells Corners.

"That's the shocker," said Kanata South Coun. Allan Hubley, who has received many complaints from residents.

They've reported gas price differences of up to 15 cents per litre compared to prices just outside of Kanata, he said.

"A couple cents' difference across the city, no big deal," said Hubley.

"But over the last couple of weeks we've noticed 10 and 15 cent differences, and in my mind that's just gouging."

Some residents have been calling for Hubley to introduce a bylaw dealing with the price at the pump.

"That's not our role," he said of the municipal government. "We don't force prices on private businesses like that."

> **"I would say that the Ottawa gasoline market is competitive and we have no evidence that there is any gouging taking place.**
> Spencer Knipping

Other residents are thinking of boycotting some Kanata gas stations, said Hubley.

While Hubley suggested residents instead convey their concerns to gas station attendants for them to pass up the line to management, a representative for major gas companies instead encouraged customers to shop around for their gas, even if that means not giving their business to local gas stations.

As for the "gouging" — well, there really isn't any going on.

At least not according to Spencer Knipping at Ontario's energy ministry.

Knipping is a gas price analyst at the Ontario Ministry of Energy who is tasked with explaining why gas prices are the way they are, and assuring consumers they aren't being taken for a ride.

"I would say that the Ottawa gasoline market is competitive and we have no evidence that there is any gouging taking place," he said.

To avoid paying higher gas prices, Knipping said consumers should search out the best prices in town using online services like GasBuddy.

ADAM KVETON/METROLAND MEDIA

SHAW CENTRE

SIGN ALMOST FINISHED

Eric Salmon buffs a deep shine into the letter "A" in front of the Shaw Centre in downtown Ottawa on Thursday. The six-foot-tall stainless steel letters, which will spell out the name of the glass-enshrined convention centre, have attracted a lot of attention since Salmon started work on Tuesday, he said. It can take a full day to buff out all the edges and imperfections on each figure, which were made in Vancouver. The whole installation should be finished by Saturday, he said.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Hospital sued firms before

COURT

Civil suit filed in 2013 over emergency generator

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

The Ottawa Hospital previously took to court two of the companies named in an explosive lawsuit filed this week, which alleges a pair of former hospital directors conspired with contractors on a secret kickback scheme.

In a statement of claim filed this week, the hospital alleges two of its ex-employees paid inflated prices to certain contractors, gave them insider information on upcoming projects and helped rig bids in their favour in exchange for luxury fishing vacations, classic cars and home renovations.

G.A.L. Power Systems Ottawa Ltd. — along with its registered director and officer Guy Adrian Lapierre — is one of the companies named in the civil suit, filed on Jan. 5 with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

The company supplies and maintains the hospital's generators and fuel systems.

The statement of claim filed this week alleges Frank Medwenitsch, who was the hospital's director of planning and capital projects until he resigned this past October, made sure that "G.A.L. Power was used as the sole-source for the Hospital's generators and their maintenance, while knowingly allowing G.A.L. Power to charge inflated prices for its goods and services."

The hospital alleges that in June 2009, G.A.L. Power Systems and/or Lapierre helped pay for Medwenitsch and some of his staff to go on a fishing trip and stay at the Fairmont Kenauk Resort in Montebello, Que.

The company also hired Medwenitsch's daughter, Stephanie, as a "client appreciation representative." The hospital says it doesn't know if the company inflated purchase orders to partially or fully cover the cost of her salary.

In return, the hospital alleges, Medwenitsch let G.A.L. Power Systems rig a bid last year for a generator and fuel system project at the Riverside campus. The hospital claims one company that "would have bid significantly less than the winning G.A.L. Power bid" was excluded. The same thing happened when G.A.L. Power Systems won a contract to replace fuel oil at the hospital's General campus, the lawsuit alleges.

None of these allegations have been proven in court.

However, Metro has discovered that the Ottawa Hospital filed a civil suit in March 2013 against G.A.L. Power Systems and several other companies over a faulty emergency generator.

The hospital alleged the company, which won a contract for the purchase of two emergency generators in 2005, "supplied and sold a flawed and defective generator system that was unfit for its intended purpose and not of merchantable quality."

It also alleged the company failed to do proper maintenance on the equipment.

The generator "experienced a catastrophic failure while a G.A.L. technician was conducting the annual maintenance test," in March 2011, the hospital alleged in that suit.

The hospital claims it had to replace the generator's engine and rent a temporary replacement, at a cost of $700,000.

In a statement of defence dated Nov. 23, 2013, G.A.L. Power Systems said the losses suffered by the hospital were "remote and excessive" and claimed the hospital failed to make arrangement to service the generators.

Court documents say the case went to mediation on Feb. 23, 2015, but the matter has not yet been settled.

Despite this legal wrangling, the company continued to receive hospital contracts.

Medwenitsch could not be reached for comment. No one answered the door Thursday at his home in Bells Corners, and he has not responded to phone calls.

Court records also show the Ottawa Hospital and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute launched a $1 million civil action against DRS Construction — along with the company's director, Gerard Dubé, and Day-View Electric Inc. — in 2013 over a "construction law" matter.

Staff at the Ottawa courthouse said Thursday the court file was unavailable as it was being transferred to Ottawa from Toronto.

WITH FILES FROM HALEY RITCHIE AND MICHAEL WOODS

The Ottawa Hospital has filed a civil lawsuit and notified police of an alleged kickback scheme involving two of its former employees and several contractors.
JOE LOFARO/METRO

$1 million

The amount of a civil action launched by the Ottawa Hospital and the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute against DRS Construction — along with a company director and Day-View Electric Inc. — in 2013 over a "construction law" matter.

Festibière bringing back the brewskies to Gatineau

THE BOTTLENECK

Jordan Duff

Festival's fifth year offering wares from 40 breweries

One of my New Year's resolutions is try new things: Namely, to enjoy more brews from La belle province. Beer drinkers in Ottawa are very fortunate to have easy access to beers from another province, since selling across provincial borders is, for some cloudy reason, difficult.

With that in mind, here's a look at the timely event of Festibière d'hiver, taking place at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau on Jan. 29 and 30, from 5 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Now in its fifth year, Festibière will be presenting wares from 40 breweries, including six from the National Capital Region. Attendees might find it cold outside, but the Grand Hall will provide plenty of body warmth; there were over 12,000 people at last year's two-day event. If you need a breath of fresh air, a large bonfire overlooking Parliament Hill will be burning bright.

> The beauty of this festival is it has something for everyone.

Besides the beer, the museum's caterer will be providing dishes to pair with the more than 100 beers as well as dishes inspired by the museum's current Vikings exhibition. There are also tasting seminars provided by Mario D'Eer, a wine/spirits bar and live entertainment.

This event is the perfect platform for craft beer fans who are looking to expand their horizons. As in Ontario, Quebec's beer industry is on the rise and saw the opening of 15 new breweries in 2015. With the addition of les Brasseurs de l'Outaouais, three breweries now call Gatineau home. Festibière has also expanded, with events in Rouyn-Noranda as well as Winter Brewfest in Ottawa and Toronto. They have also partnered with Winterlude; Gatineau's Festibière and Ottawa's Winter Brewfest bookend the two-week celebration.

For the adventurous, there will be eight different casks with experimental brews ready for tasting.

The beauty of this festival is it has something for everyone.

It provides a range that satisfies the beer enthusiast carefully sniffing a tulip glass of a Belgian sour, searching for notes of horse blanket. But it also offers entertainment for those who want to enjoy a glass of wine and dance to live music under the watchful gaze of the enormous totem poles.

Festibière d'hiver takes place at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau on Jan. 29 and 30. COURTESY NICK GHATTAS

LOCAL HOP-PENINGS

Beyond the Pale is making it easier to get your hands on their beer. They have expanded their hours and are now offering more beers in cans, including Rye Guy and Imperial Super Guy.

Brew Donkey has numerous new tours available, including the thinking and drinking combo "Crafting an Escape," a collaboration with Escape Room.

HISTORY

Man on mission to bury soldiers

An Ottawa historian has undertaken a mission to give proper burials to more than 40 Canadian soldiers killed at Vimy Ridge.

Norm Christie, an author and History Television host, says that on April 9, 1917, a unit of the Canadian Scottish regiment attacked across a field in northern France.

During the heat of battle, 44 of the dead were buried in a crater which was marked CA40. They included William Milne of Moose Jaw, Sask., a Victoria Cross winner.

Christie says the dead — including 10 members of the 113th Battalion Lethbridge Highlanders — were supposed to be exhumed and relocated to a nearby cemetery called Nine Elms, but it never happened.

Christie and his supporters are trying to raise money for non-destructive testing to find the exact location of the mass grave, which he suspects is in the middle of a farmer's potato field.

So far, they have raised $22,000 of their goal of $110,000.

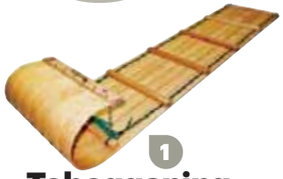
"I think if we can recover them, then we should recover them," says Christie. "It's a real statement about a country how you treat your dead and these are, really, Canadian heroes who gave their lives for Canada on one of the most significant dates of our history."

Christie says residents in the village of Thelus, France, and area farmers have given their consent to have the area explored.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

5 THINGS TO DO IN OTTAWA THIS WEEKEND

Hit the snowy hills, hear the sounds of vikings and spend an evening with Canada's first Prime Minister. All that and more this weekend. **HALEY RITCHIE** METRO



1

Tobogganing (all weekend)

Ready for some tobogganing? Or taboozing (for the older crowd)? The City of Ottawa has finally opened its officially designated sledding hills. A map of hills, including snow conditions, is available on the city's website.

Symphonic Vikings (Saturday)

The Vikings exhibition continues this weekend at the Museum of Canadian History and the National Arts Centre is jumping on board with a kid-friendly music and theatre production that promises to "knock your helmet off." Tickets start at $23.

2

3

Evening with Sir John A. (Friday)

Canadian history buffs rejoice! The Monarchist League of Canada will be hosting a tribute to Sir John A. and another founding father, Sir George-Etienne Cartier. Tickets are $11.20 and can be purchased at eventbrite.ca

Mawlid (Saturday)

The Association of Islamic Charitable projects is celebrating Mawlid — the day of the birth of Prophet Muhammad — on Saturday, Jan. 9. Beginning 5:30 p.m. at Centrepointe Theatre, 101 Centrepointe Dr., join the association for kids programming, a light dinner, speeches, musical chants and Qur'an recitings. Admission is free and guests can register at centrepointetheatre.ca.

4

5

Banff Mountain Film Fest (Monday)

Jan. 11 to 13, Ottawa's Trailhead Paddle Shack will be presenting highlights from the 2015/16 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. Tickets are $18 in advance and can be purchased at 1960 Scott St. in Westboro. Showings start at 7:30 p.m. at the ByTowne Cinema.

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Shelby and 50th Anniversary), F-150 SuperCab XL (except in Quebec) and 2016 Focus, C-MAX, Taurus, Escape, F-150 Regular Cab (excl. XL 4X2), 5.0L F-150 SuperCab, F-150 SuperCrew 4X4, F-250 Gas Engine models for up to 72 months, or 2015 Focus (excluding BEV) and 2016 Fusion models for up to 84 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit Canada Limited. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72/84 months, monthly payment is $520.84/$416.67/$347.22/$297.62, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment or purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit (from Ford Credit Canada Limited). *Offer valid between January 5, 2016 and February 1, 2016 (the "Offer Period") to Canadian residents. Receive $500 towards the purchase or lease of a new 2015 or 2016 Ford Fusion, or $750 towards the purchase or lease of a new 2015 or 2016 Ford Mustang (excluding 50th Anniversary Edition and Shelby), Taurus, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Escape, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series Cutaway, Transit, F-150, F-250 to F-550 (all F-150 Raptor models excluded) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Only one (1) bonus offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. Taxes payable before offer amount is deducted. Offer is not rainchecksable. †Until February 1, 2016, lease a new 2016 Ford Escape SE / Escape Titanium for up to 60 months, and get 0.99% LAPR on approved credit (OAC) from FordCredit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease a 2016 Ford Escape / Escape Titanium with a value of $27,069/$35,439 after $1,195/$0 down payment or equivalent trade in at 0.99% LAPR for up 60 months with an optional buyout of $9,919/$13,208, monthly payment is $282/$391 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $130/$180), total lease obligation is $16,115/$23,460, interest cost of leasing is $883/$1,200 or 0.99% LAPR. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Additional payments required for optional features, license, and insurance. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restriction of 80,000 km for 60 months (16,000 km per year) applies. Excess kilometrage charges are 12¢ per km, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change, see your local dealer for details. †Until February 1, 2016, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus SE / Focus Titanium / Fusion SE FWD / Fusion Titanium models for up to 84 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. 2015 Focus SE / Focus Titanium / 2016 Fusion SE FWD/ 2016 Fusion Titanium for $21,362/$27,164/$25,999/$34,999 (with $0 down payment) purchase financed at 0% APR for 84 months, monthly payment is $255/$324/$306/$402 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $118/$150/$137/$186), interest cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $21,362/$27,164 /$25,999/$34,999). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers include freight and air tax ($1,665 for Focus and $1,730 for Fusion) and PPSA charges but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. *Purchase a new 2015 Focus SE / 2015 Focus Titanium / 2016 Fusion SE FWD / 2016 Fusion Titanium for $23,364/$27,164/$25,999/$34,999 (after Manufacturer Rebates of $750 deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebates have been deducted. Offers include freight and air tax charges but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. **Based on HIS Automotive: Polk Canadian Total New Registration data, based on year-end 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. ©2016 Sirius Canada Inc. 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Privacy czar warns against profiling

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Border agency to use system more similar to U.S. process

The federal border agency's new system for scrutinizing incoming air passengers could open the door to profiling based on race or other personal factors, warns Canada's privacy czar.

Privacy Commissioner Daniel Therrien is pressing the Canada Border Services Agency to explain the program's rationale and build in safeguards to protect civil liberties.

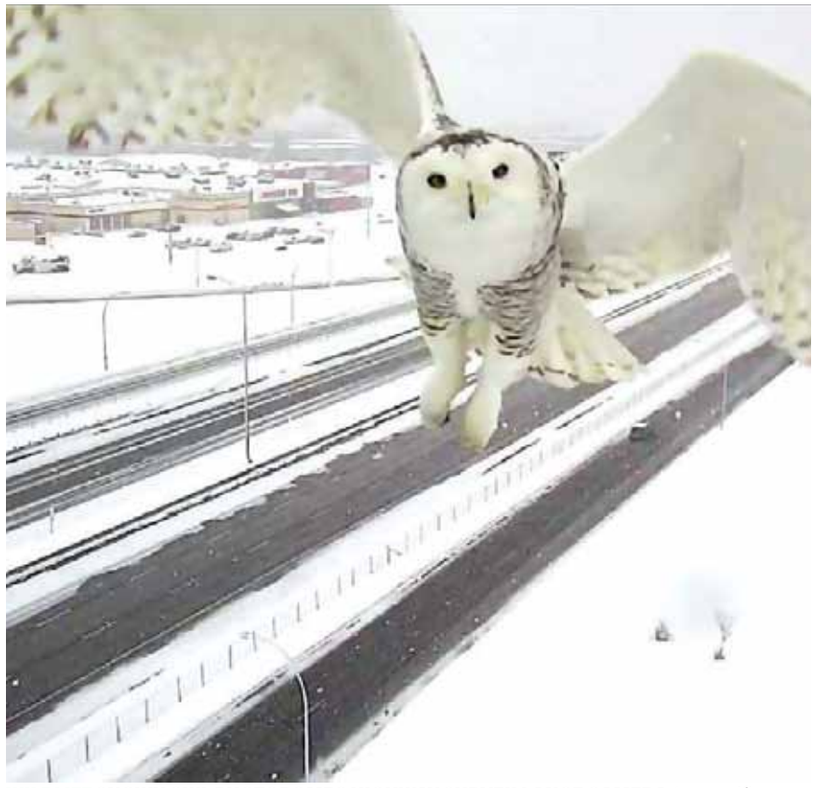
Canadian law requires airlines to provide the border agency with information about passengers like name, birthdate, citizenship, seat number and other data.

For years the agency has used the information to try to zero in on terrorists or other criminals. Travellers are assessed for risk, allowing the agency to single out those with high-risk scores for closer examination.

The border agency is moving to a system known as scenario-based targeting, already used by the U.S., as part of Canada's commitment to work closely with Washington under a security pact forged in 2011. The border agency says the scheme will be more efficient, effective and accurate, directing the focus to a smaller segment of travellers who represent a high risk.

The new method uses Big Data to evaluate data collected from air carriers, says Therrien's office.

"It could allow the operator to, for example, search for all males aged between the ages of 18-20 who are Egyptian nationals and who have visited both Paris and New York," Therrien says in his report. He is concerned travellers may be "subjected to recurring and unnecessary attention ... because of characteristics they cannot change." THE CANADIAN PRESS



WILDLIFE SNOWY OWL PHOTOBOMBS HIGHWAY SURVEILLANCE CAMERA A magnificent snowy owl briefly posed for a road traffic camera selfie while soaring through the air in Montreal on Sunday. The impressive wingspan displayed in the images could be as long as 1.45 metres, about the height of a small adult Canadian woman. COURTESY ROBERT POËTI

IN BRIEF

Feds extend matching donations for Syria

Photos of starving children in Syria are reminders that the human toll still needs to be addressed, the international aid minister and humanitarian agencies said Thursday in urging Canadians to continue to donate. The government will extend to Feb. 29 the deadline for people to have dollars matched. About $12 million has been raised since September. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety minister promises to review no-fly list

The public safety minister says officials have reminded airlines they don't need to vet children against Canada's no-fly list, after a six-year-old was stopped by airport security. Ralph Goodale says his department is exploring possible changes to regulations that would help differentiate individuals who have similar or the same names as those on the list. Goodale also indicated the no-fly regime would be examined in public consultations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Violence a year after Hebdo

PARIS

Knife-wielding man killed after threatening police officers

Police shot and killed a man wearing a fake explosive vest who threatened them with a butcher knife at a Paris police station Thursday, a year almost to the minute after two Islamic extremists burst into the offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, killing 11 people and unleashing a bloody 12 months in the French capital.

The Paris prosecutor's anti-terrorism unit opened an investigation after police found a cellphone, a piece of paper with an emblem of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and "an unequivocal written claim of responsibility in Arabic" with the man's body, the prosecutor's office said. It did not provide details about the claim.

France has been under a state of emergency since a series of attacks claimed by the Islamic State group killed 130 people in Paris on Nov. 13, and tensions increased this week as the anniversary of the January attacks approached. Soldiers were posted in front of schools and security forces were more present than usual amid a series of tributes to the dead.

Officials said the man shot to death Thursday threatened officers at the entrance of a police station near the Montmartre neighbourhood, home to the Sacre Coeur Cathedral. Just moments before, French President Francois Hollande, speaking in a different location, paid respects to officers fallen in the line of duty.

The man at the police station is believed to have cried out "Allahu akbar," Arabic for "God is great." He has not been identified, and Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said police do not believe anyone else was involved.

Alexis Mukenge, who saw the shooting from inside another building, told the network iTele that police told the man, "Stop. Move back." Mukenge said officers fired twice and the man dropped to the ground.

Video shot from a window above the station shows the man's body lying on the ground in a pool of blood, a bomb-detecting robot nearby.

The Goutte d'Or neighbourhood in Paris' 18th arrondissement was briefly locked down, and two metro lines running through the area were halted. They reopened after about two hours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A gathering in Paris Thursday marks one year since the attacks on Charlie Hebdo satirical newspaper. **Tensions in France, under a state of emergency since a wave of attacks on Nov. 13, have been even higher this week.** FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Miners rescued, all 17 OK

Seventeen miners trapped in a Lansing, N.Y., salt mine — one of the world's deepest — were rescued Thursday morning, ending a 10-hour ordeal that began when their elevator broke down 900 feet (275 metres) underground.

They were descending to the floor of the 2,300-foot-deep (700 metres) Cayuga Salt Mine — nearly deep enough to fit two Empire State Buildings stacked on top of each other — to start their shift, when the elevator malfunctioned at around 10 p.m. Wednesday, said Mark Klein, a spokesman for mine owner Cargill Inc.

Emergency workers communicated via radio with the miners, who had blankets, heat packs and other supplies lowered to them.

A crane hoisted the first four miners to the surface in a basket around 7 a.m. Another four were rescued about 30 minutes later. Seven more were brought to the surface by 8:30 a.m., Klein said. The last two were rescued a few minutes later. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCIENCE

Iceman's ulcers clue to Bronze Age

Poor Ötzi lived and died painfully. The 5,300-year-old "Iceman," whose frozen remains were discovered by hikers in the Italian Alps, has been diagnosed by modern-day scientists with arthritis, spinal damage, tooth decay, lactose intolerance, and a murderous arrow wound to the shoulder that lacerated an artery and killed him.

"It was for sure a tough life," said Albert Zink of the Institute for Mummies and the Iceman, at the European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano and a co-author of the paper in the journal Science this week.

Ötzi's stomach bug help fill in blank spots in the bacterial history of Europe. Because H. pylori is an incredibly successful human pathogen, researchers have used geographically distinct bacterial strains to reconstruct human migrations.

Fascinatingly, the researchers have used Ötzi's stomach bug to fill in blank spots in the bacterial history of Europe. Because H. pylori is an incredibly successful human pathogen — approximately half the world's population are carriers, though only a fraction will experience ulcers — researchers have used geographically distinct bacterial strains to reconstruct human migrations.

Ötzi's H. pylori is the oldest specimen ever sequenced — and his strain is very different than that of modern Europeans.

"It's a very cool thing to do, to get it from the Iceman," said Daniel Falush, a statistical geneticist at the U.K.'s Swansea University.

"They made a clear scientific finding about what he had, which is definitely new."

Ötzi's H. pylori, the researchers write in Science, is a nearly pure Asian strain, most closely related to an H. pylori strain now found primarily in India.

The scientists would like to sample pathogens from the stomachs of other ancient mummies.

"Something really dramatic has happened in the last 5,000 years in H. pylori DNA that hasn't happened in human DNA," says Falush.

For now, researchers are primarily celebrating a unique snapshot of the microbial life inside one famous — and somewhat unfortunate — mummy from ancient Europe.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A researcher takes samples of the 5,300-year-old body of a Bronze Age hunter known as Ötzi. AUGUSTIN OCHSENREITER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

> **It's a very cool thing to do, to get it from the Iceman.**
> Daniel Falush, statistical geneticist

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CardSwap

Wayfair comes to Canada

FURNITURE AND HOME DECOR

Store is biggest online-only retailer in U.S.

Home decor stores in Canada have a new competitor — U.S. online retailer Wayfair.

Wayfair officially launched a Canadian website Thursday morning, claiming to offer more than seven million items for the home from more than 7,000 suppliers, including a network of Canadian suppliers.

Already the biggest online-only furniture and home decor store in the U.S., the move into Canada will pit Wayfair against Ikea, Winners and HomeSense, owned by TJX Canada, and Home Outfitters, owned by Hudson's Bay Co.

5.2 M

The number of orders Wayfair delivered in 2014, reaching $1.3 billion U.S. in net revenue.

Canadians are already shopping Wayfair.com, said co-founder and CEO Niraj Shah. The Canadian website will make it easier and cheaper for existing Canadian customers and increase market share, he added.

For now, orders will be shipped from consolidation centres in Kentucky and Utah. Wayfair, based in Boston, employs more than 3,000 people.

"We think there's a big opportunity in Canada. The Canadian market doesn't get serviced the same way as the U.S. market, despite the fact that so many Canadian shoppers are close to the border," said Shah.

Shipping is free on orders over $75 and the average order is triple that much, said Shah.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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SEGWAY MOTORIZED SCOOTER DEBUTS Mika Ascalson controls a Segway MiniPRO with a phone app at CES International in Las Vegas. The motorized robot responds to voice commands, recording video as it goes off on its own path, avoiding obstacles along the way. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONEY MONITOR

Resolutions need a plan to succeed

Increasing retirement savings, reducing debt or putting away more for your child's education may be on your list of new year resolutions, but to make them more than wishful thinking you need a plan.

To help make your financial new year's resolution stick, portfolio manager Amy Dietz-Graham of Bank of Montreal says to make it automatic.

> **It takes a lot of the pressure off of you**
> Amy Dietz-Graham

Whether it is increasing the amount you save or paying off that last stubborn balance on a line of credit, she suggests setting up regular payments.

"Then it is not something that you have to think about," she said. "It takes a lot of the pressure off of you having to constantly remind yourself to keep on top of a resolution. Just make it automatic."

She said it's important to set specific goals so that progress can be measured.

Vague resolutions to save more or reduce debt aren't as good as a plan to save an additional $1,000 by June 30 or eliminate a line of credit balance by Sept. 30.

"If you set a target and you can see it and you can visualize, you really get a sense of where you're at, how far away you are from it, what you need to do and then you can break it into bite-sized pieces," she said.

Dietz-Graham also recommends setting a calendar to track progress on a regular basis throughout the year.

"That actually will motivate you," she said.

An annual survey by Sun Life Financial suggested debt is continuing to weigh on Canadians.

But only 13 per cent said paying down debt is among their top three resolutions for 2016 and just four per cent ranked savings as a top resolution.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 70.94¢ (–0.08¢)

TSX 12,448.21 (–278.59)

OIL $33.27 US (–70¢)

GOLD $1,107.80 US (+$15.90)

NATURAL GAS: $2.382 US (+11.5¢)
DOW JONES: 16,514.10 (–392.41)

IN BRIEF

Panic selling grips market
Panic selling in Asia prompted by developments in China spread across the globe and threw the Toronto stock market into a tailspin, ending the day off roughly 20 per cent from its all-time high — generally considered bear market territory. THE CANADIAN PRESS

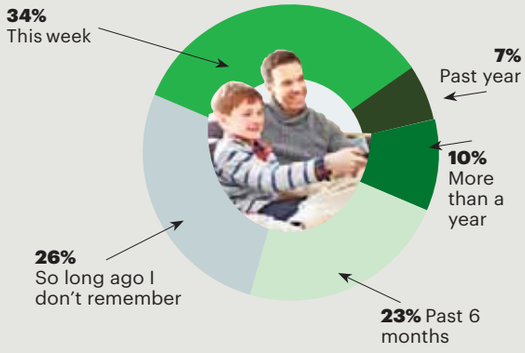
metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Weekend, January 8-10, 2016

Metro POLL
Internet killed the video store?

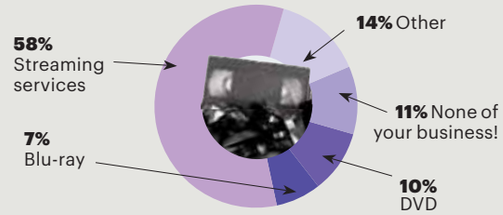
Visit metronews.ca **to have your say.**

A unique movie-rental shop in Canada's biggest city is defying a global trend. It's continuing to grow, despite the rise of online video providers such as Netflix. Sales at Toronto's Bay Street Video jumped 10 per cent in 2015, and it was recently named one of the top 50 video stores in North America by Entertainment Weekly. The secret sauce, the store manager says, is the selection, which includes many offbeat titles that aren't found on any streaming service. We asked our readers if they gave up on home video long ago, or if their DVDs and tapes are still rolling.

1 When was the last time you watched a film or TV show on a DVD, Blu-ray or tape?



2 How do you watch most of your movies and TV?



3 If you do choose to watch old-fashioned hard copy movies and TV, why?

21% Quality is better
18% Better selection
18% I like obscure movies
16% I like my TV setup/I don't know how to stream
13% I use the library
14% Other

I like VHS. You can find many classics for under a dollar. I like the bendy sound, the warped picture and the Space-Age vibe.

If it's any good, it will eventually come out on TV.

I use Netflix to preview a movie. If I like it I will buy the DVD to own and re-watch. Plus DVDs come with bonus material.

I miss visiting the video store to hunt for a movie. It's easy to stream but it isn't the same.

WE ASKED Metro readers

There is no upside to Ebola

Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

It was a scary time.

In July 2014, for an assignment in Maclean's, I spoke to Dr. Tim Jagatic, a Canadian GP working in the field in Ebola-ravaged Sierra Leone. Exhausted and dehydrated after a long shift in hot, Michelin-Man-like protective gear, he said he was faced with a fleeting chance to do real-time science.

Usually, Ebola symptoms include high fever, vomiting, diarrhea (often bloody), and, near the end, bleeding from the eyes, nose and rectum. Mortality is in the high double digits. It's a grisly, excruciating, humiliating way to die.

But Jagatic said with a record number of cases, some odd manifestations of the virus were being seen for the first time. It seemed to be causing some patients' blood sugar to spike. Was it attacking the pancreas? He had no idea.

Doing science only once an application is needed doesn't work.

"We're trying to incorporate as much clinical research as we possibly can," he said. "But that does require resources ... things we don't have."

This illustrates what should be obvious, yet must be said: Doing science only once an application is needed — during the response to a full-blown outbreak — doesn't work.

That's the same conclusion reached this week in an article published in the journal Science. It decries the "thin scientific harvest" of the 2014-2015 West African Ebola outbreak.

The authors describe a "frenzied effort" to test vaccines and drugs that had never been given to humans.

It was a letdown. Some experiments had no clear results because they failed to enrol enough participants. Others did recruit enough patients, but didn't use a good study design, producing murky data. Some were halted early.

The one published clinical trial was cold comfort. In July 2015, when the worst of the epidemic was long past, the World Health Organization trumpeted "a game-changer": a vaccine that was — according to a clinical trial of 4,000 high-risk people in Guinea — apparently, tentatively, safe and 100 per cent effective.

It was VSV-EBOV, a vaccine developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in Winnipeg. Three cheers for Canadian science! Hip, hip….

Wait. The outbreak, which is expected to be declared over soon, infected 28,637 and killed 11,315, mostly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Meanwhile, a good vaccine was sitting in a lab somewhere. Work on it started around 2000, and by 2005 it was shown to confer strong Ebola immunity in monkeys. In jumpy, post-9/11 North America, there was a lot of funding for research on bioterrorism agents. The Canadian government licensed the vaccine to a small American drug developer, which never got around to human trials.

An Ebola bomb never materialized. An epidemic did. No one saw it coming. Before 2014, there had only been a couple of thousand Ebola deaths total since the 1970s.

Dr. Heinz Feldmann, one of the creators of the vaccine, urged me not to judge PHAC too harshly. Threats like flu and tuberculosis get prioritized for a reason. When government and market interests align (not the case with Ebola), private partnerships can help fund major drug development.

Feldmann said vaccines for rare, deadly infections (like Nipah virus, a "time bomb,") should be developed at least to the stage of testing for safety in humans, so trials of effectiveness can begin when an outbreak hits. That has to be publicly funded: Businesses likely won't invest in preparing for an event that may never be. If that had been the approach in the first place, maybe we wouldn't be searching for a silver lining now.

Genna Buck is a science writer and a section editor at Metro. Follow her on Twitter @genna_buck.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
metroview

Legal déjà vu: Another battle for abortion access

Prince Edward Island: Home to Anne of Green Gables, lobster, and not one abortion.

Not one for decades, despite the Supreme Court's 1988 ruling that struck down the country's anti-abortion law.

And now, after years of fighting, activists are suing the province. It's just the latest in a long line of litigation that gave women the right to abortions and then fought for the implementation of that right. It's perhaps fitting that it has come down to a lawsuit in P.E.I.

This week Abortion Access Now P.E.I., with support of the national women's rights non-profit LEAF, gave the 90-day warning required before suing the government. The groups allege the province is infringing on women's charter rights and is in contravention of P.E.I.'s own health-care plan. Lawyers will argue the no-abortion policy unlawfully discriminates on the basis of sex and pregnancy, and that sending women out of province goes against P.E.I.'s commitment to the efficient and equitable administration of health care.

Currently, the province pays for an abortion if a P.E.I. woman travels one of two approved out-of-province hospitals. But travel isn't covered.

There is the bridge toll to get off the island, the bus fare, often an overnight stay at a hotel, all for a short procedure, says Kim Stanton, LEAF's legal director.

The lawsuit is a last resort, Stanton said — it could take years and an estimated $100,000 to litigate. But, "You don't start one of these things unless you are willing to see it through."

Joyce Arthur, executive director of the Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada, expects a battle.

"Based on things like (the province's) own history and their long-standing policy, they're just going to be stubborn and keep fighting, no matter how weak their arguments are, no matter how weak their case is," Arthur said.

Stubbornly, too, pro-life advocates have fought access to abortion at every turn, pushing federal bills to send abortion-providing doctors to jail (in 1990) or enshrine the rights of fetuses (in 2007). We're lucky not to live in the violent days, when abortion clinics were firebombed (as in 1992), and abortion doctors were shot (as in 1994, 1995 and 1997).

But in many ways — the threat of rising fees for B.C. abortion clinics; provinces refusing to fund abortions that take place in clinics — abortion rights remain under attack. According to Arthur, only one-fifth of hospitals nationally provide abortions.

So here we are, in 2016, with a lawsuit to carry on that good fight. The latest legal battle, but surely not the last.

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metro WEEKEND
Your essential daily news
MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Leonardo DiCaprio hides his Hollywood looks under scruff, filth and grimaces in The Revenant. CONTRIBUTED

Still searching for that Oscar

THE REVENANT

Could Leo finally win over the Academy?

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Leonardo DiCaprio makes $25 million dollars per movie. So he has money. His best friend is Tobey McGuire and his little black book reads like a Victoria's Secret catalogue, so he's never lonely. He has opulent homes on both the left and right coasts of America — one comes equipped with a vitamin C infused shower — and he even owns a 104 acre unpopulated island off the coast of Belize. He's a superstar with almost everything. Do you know what he doesn't have? An Oscar.

He's come close several times, earning nominations for his work in What's Eating Gilbert Grape, The Aviator, Blood Diamond and The Wolf of Wall Street, but he's never entered the winner circle.

He's always been gracious in defeat, smiling and nodding during the Oscar broadcast when someone else's name is called. "I wasn't surprised that Jamie got the award," he said about the 2005 Academy Awards when Jamie Foxx took best actor for Ray over The Aviator. "But I knew that cameras would be stuffed up my face so I had my response ready. Anyone who says they don't practice is a liar."

He may not have to fake being happy for another actor this year. Pundits are predicting his new movie The Revenant could bring him that elusive honour. He plays American fur trapper Hugh Glass, a frontiersman who became a legend in 1823 when he survived a brutal bear attack and slogged across harsh terrain to get revenge on the man who left him to die.

This is DiCaprio's Jeremiah Johnson, a movie that masks his matinee-idol good looks with facial hair and grimaces. For much of the two-and-a-half-hour running time he is mute, alone on screen crawling across the frozen landscape, slowly inching his way toward vengeance. There are great physical demands made on the actor — the bear-maul-o-rama being just one of the miseries he endures — but this is an internal performance. The character's strength, pain, frustration, anger and intestinal fortitude are apparent not only in his actions, but, more importantly, in his eyes. It may not be his flashiest role, but it is one of his best.

Nominations will be announced Jan. 14 so we won't know until then if he is chosen, but the odds are good. So good that Vanity Fair declared, "This is going to be the year Leonardo DiCaprio finally wins that Oscar."

Question is, why would someone who has everything want an Academy Award? What difference would it make?

The truth is it would likely make no difference to his career, at least financially. He's already in the top tier of Tinseltown salaries and the fabled "Oscar box-office bump"— a sharp spike in ticket sales when the nominations are announced — hasn't meant much in recent years.

The real win for DiCaprio would be the prestige. The best actor Oscar is a rare commodity. Only 78 people have them — Daniel Day-Lewis has three, Jack Nicholson and seven others have two apiece — and winning one would put him in the company of legends like Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and Gary Cooper.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

The Revenant	★★★★
Anomalisa	★★★★
The Forest	★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Leonardo DiCaprio, a vegetarian, insisted they use the real thing — actual, raw bison liver

The Revenant, based on a true story, stars Leonardo DiCaprio as fur trapper Hugo Glass who was attacked by a bear, left for dead in the wilderness by fellow frontiersmen and, driven by vengeance, journeys — much of it on his hands and knees — some 200 miles back to camp. Although the movie has wide release on Jan. 8, details of the arduous shoot that went well over budget have been in print for months now.

Details like how director Alejandro González Iñárritu insisted on shooting using only natural light and on filming the entire epic chronologically; how production was plagued with problems mostly on account of the extremely isolated locations — British Columbia and Alberta doubled as Montana and South Dakota in the early 1820s — not to mention the weather.

Visually, these efforts pay off. The film — all 156 minutes — has beautiful moments that won't leave you. But overall, The Revenant left me cold. It felt as though Iñárritu went to lofty lengths to call attention to his tricks: a lens fogged up by the CGI bear, whose thick saliva drips down onto a bloodied Glass' face, for example. But he fell short on giving life to his characters. Tom Hardy plays a smarmy frontiersman in such an affected manner that Simon still hasn't stopped imitating it. And Glass, the film's hero, "suffers great afflictions," as the New Yorker recently said, "but no change."

THE MOVIE: The Revenant

THE MEAL: Venison strip loin

But, oh, did Leo suffer for his art, which will undoubtedly lead to his fifth Academy Award nomination for acting. In one scene, the prosthetics team could've fashioned fake meat for DiCaprio, a vegetarian, to eat, but the 41-year-old actor insisted they use the real thing — actual, raw bison liver. Iñárritu applauded his leading man: "Without it, he may not have gotten to the truth," he said.

I'm not sure what that means but I considered it when I recently enjoyed dinner at The Bison in Calgary. As is the tendency of many fashionable restaurants, their menu is seasonal and showcases local ingredients, including duck, elk and bison, lots of bison. Not so usual, however, was to find so many fantastic bottles of wine for under $100.

I considered ordering the Pacific Ling cod. But our server — one of several people we met originally from Ontario, or "Onterrible," as she called it, who intended to visit Banff for six or so months and stayed a decade — looked at me as if to say, Really? "You're in Alberta," she said. "Have the venison."

"Haha, you're right," I replied. "Medium, please." She gave me another look. "You're going to tell me that I ought to have it medium-rare, aren't you?"

"Medium is fine," she said. "But if you asked for it well done, we'd have a problem."

When the venison arrived, darkened on the outside with a cocoa chili rub, and surrounded by potato croquette, beetroot and Saskatoon berries, Simon looked at me, concerned. I'm fine with pink, even red, but he knows I get squeamish around meat that's still gelatinous in the centre. This strip loin was so viscerally ruby that it looked like I'd just foraged it myself.

He assumed that I'd sneak over the especially rare bits to his plate. But the truth is, I finished it myself, with no suffering.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

STAR WARS

Hey, Hasbro. Where's Rey?

The Star Wars version of Monopoly will add a game piece based on the female character Rey after an eight-year-old girl wrote "Girls matter" in a letter to game maker Hasbro noting the omission.

Carrie Goldman posted a letter on Twitter this week written by her daughter, Annie Rose, asking why Hasbro left out Rey when she is a main character of the latest movie in the series, Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

Hasbro responded, saying it didn't want any spoilers, so it did not include Rey when it released the game in September. The toy maker says it will add the new piece this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Majical Cloudz: Smiling through the sadness

INTERVIEW

Emotional lyrics over bare synth land duo on 'best of' lists

Matthew Otto and Devon Welsh create stripped down, slow-motion electro-pop for the masses. SARAH O'DRISCOLL/CONTRIBUTED

One should never automatically equate the singer with the song, but the temptation to typecast Devon Welsh of Majical Cloudz as the walking embodiment of doomy, early 21st-century pop miserablism runs strong.

It's the risk you take when you habitually put yourself out there as emotionally unguarded as Welsh does over creative partner Matthew Otto's soft, subtle synthscapes — think Death Cab for Cutie recast as slow-motion electro-popsters — although there's definitely a Morrissey-esque mischievous streak running through his penetrating ruminations on love, longing and mortality that suggests a wicked sense of humour lurking behind the dour exterior.

Welsh and Otto are an enigmatic pair, in any case, and have lately turned up on year-end "best of" lists with their latest disc, Are You Alone?, released in October via Toronto indie Arts & Crafts in Canada and Matador Records south of the border.

With Majical Cloudz about to embark on a North American and Australian tour, The Toronto Star gave Welsh a ring while he was hanging out with his father, Twin Peaks actor Kenneth Welsh, in Uxbridge over the holidays.

I'm always struck by how little you leave yourself to hide behind in your music, musically and emotionally. You and Matthew seem very intent on doing more with less.

I think that's the one thing we have as a rule, just keeping it as spare as it reasonably can be. That was sort of the inspiration behind the band at the beginning, and that's what I'm interested in just in terms of writing songs and how it sounds when it's all finished. I've just always been attracted to music that has some space in it.

Do you get tired of people assuming you're this perpetually melancholy soul?

I remember when we put out our first album people used the word "confessional," and I don't necessarily feel that way. Sometimes I'm talking about myself, but most of the time not really. And I think on this album, as well, there's a certain sense of humour to the music — there's fertile ground for humour in something that people can take really seriously.

Is it draining laying yourself so bare night after night?

In a sense, I guess. I haven't had the experience of being in another band or playing other types of music so I really don't know. But I can see anything being draining, any type of music. I feel like maybe if you were doing a big party thing where the show is just, you know, a big, wild party, I can see that being energizing but I can also see that being draining. I think anything that you're putting a lot of energy into on tour is just going to wind up draining you.

Speaking of touring, you guys went out on the road opening for Lorde in 2014. How was that experience?

It was interesting. The more time that passes, the weirder it seems to me. At the time, it just sort of made sense. "Oh, yeah, of course. That's what we're doing." And it was great. It was a cool experience, something that I would have never been able to do and will probably never do again. So for that reason, I think it was really cool. But the more time that goes by, the more I'm like: "Wow, that was such an alien universe."

She was nice and it ended up being really fun and interesting, but the goal or the ambition of getting back to those stages, getting back to a place to where we're opening for someone like Lorde or even trying to get somewhere close to that ourselves or myself as a musician, I just feel like that's not a ambition of mine anymore. If it ever was. I've done it.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GOSSIP

Amy Schumer's new boyfriend is hot

Schumer and boyfriend Ben Hanisch. INSTAGRAM/BENHANISCH

Big news! Everyone's pretend best friend — or, if you're lucky enough to be Jennifer Lawrence, your actual best friend — Amy Schumer has a new man in her life. And describing him will probably make you jealous: Schumer is reportedly dating Chicago-based custom-furniture maker Ben Hanisch, according to E! News.

So, you know, he's good with his hands and knows how to keep warm in the winter. Oh, and he's totally into being effusive about his lady, which is a definite plus. Hanisch posted a photo of him and Schumer early this week with the touching caption, "Sometimes in life you get extremely lucky, and the smartest, funniest, most beautiful woman comes along when you least expect it. Here's to what adventures 2016 brings!"

Adorable. And apparently things are serious enough that he got to tag along to the White House this week with her. Are you overcome with jealousy yet? NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

THE BIG BANG

Sheldon deflowered in front of millions

Apparently we're a nation of TV voyeurs. CTV says an average of 5.1 million viewers tuned in to watch Sheldon and Amy get it on in the Dec. 17 episode of The Big Bang Theory. The comedy about a group of nerdy friends has long been a favourite with Canadians, with a season average of 3.5 million viewers.

CTV says the episode in which Sheldon (Emmy winner Jim Parsons) and Amy (Mayim Bialik) finally consummated their relationship was the most watched Big Bang instalment since the Season 7 premiere in 2013; the third most watched in series history and the fifth most watched broadcast of a scripted show on record.

The only broadcasts that beat it in 2015, according to a news release, were Super Bowl XLIX, the International Ice Hockey Federation World Junior Championship final and the 87th Academy Awards.

Viewers who missed the episode, The Opening Night Excitation, can catch it at CTV.ca or on the CTV GO app.

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Golfing by the Teeth of the Dog

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

There is no better place to tee off in the Caribbean

Brian Kendall
For Metro Canada

While there are many great courses in the Dominican, the Teeth of the Dog, featuring seven spectacular oceanside holes, is indisputably the best, says Brian Kendall. PHOTOS BY CASA DE CAMPO

After a day of gulf, relax poolside at Casa de Campo.

Canadians love the Dominican Republic.

More than 700,000 of us visit the Caribbean nation every year, a total surpassed in the region only by Cuba.

We're drawn by the unaffected warmth of the people, the powdery white-sand beaches, and by the Caribbean's widest selection of affordable all-inclusive resorts.

For golfers, the Dominican Republic's most irresistible draw is its roster of 26 palm tree-lined courses by Pete Dye, Tom Fazio, Jack Nicklaus and other top architects.

A 25-year-long boom in course construction has the country of 10 million in hot competition with Puerto Rico, Jamaica and other challengers for dominance in the Caribbean golf market.

Nicklaus's Punta Espada and Fazio's Corales, both near Punta Cana on the eastern shore, number among the world's most magnificent seaside designs. And on the remote north shore is Playa Grande Golf Course, a masterwork by the legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. that's currently being remodelled by his son, Rees Jones.

Other standout courses include La Estancia in La Romana, Punta Blanca in Punta Cana, and Guavaberry in Juan Dolio.

But indisputably the best of them all is Dye's iconic Teeth of the Dog course at Casa de Campo Resort.

Set beside the Caribbean Sea near the bustling city of La Romana on the southeast coast, Dye's masterful layout has been a bucket-list destination for every well-travelled golfer since its launch in 1971.

Especially unforgettable are Teeth of the Dog's seven oceanside holes — including the eponymous 16th, a treacherous par three set in a rock cove roughly shaped like a dog's snapping jaws.

CASA DE CAMPO was recently voted the Dominican Republic's best golf hotel at the World Golf Awards in Portugal.

Dye calls this windswept and watery stretch "the seven holes created by God."

A hands-on perfectionist, the now 90-year-old Dye has spent half a lifetime tweaking and even massively reworking Teeth of the Dog and the resort's two other excellent courses, Dye Fore and The Links.

Together they're the centrepiece of a sprawling 2,833-hectare resort so big and ripe with possibilities that hotel guests are given golf carts to get around the grounds. Guest rooms are in red-roofed, two-storey casitas that dogleg out from the main reception area. Also available are 50 three- to seven-bedroom villas.

Other attractions include a marina community modelled after the colourful seaside towns of the Mediterranean, and Altos de Chavon, a re-creation of an Old World artisan village that includes a Grecian amphitheatre.

A new addition to the facilities is a 4,459 square-metre golf practice area complete with driving range, a dedicated short-game zone, as well as grass mounds and depressions designed to simulate conditions on the three courses.

No wonder that Casa de Campo was recently voted the Dominican Republic's best golf hotel at the World Golf Awards in Portugal. Teeth of the Dog won, too, for best golf course in the Caribbean—but that was almost a foregone conclusion.

For more golfing destinations, visit Brian's website at canadiangolftraveller.com

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TRAVEL NOTES GAP YEAR, GLAMPING & SAFARI GETAWAYS

Take the year off

Youth travel experts Intrepid Travel and Flight Centre have teamed up to create the Ultimate 365-Day Adventure, starting in Bangkok on Feb. 3 and ending in Buenos Aires one year later. You hit 34 countries on five continents from the jungles of South East Asia all the way to Antarctica. Priceless at $100,000. Visit IntrepidTravel.com/365-day-adventure.

Halong Bay, Vietnam. CONTRIBUTED

Tenting trend

Costa Rica's Nayara Hotels has announced a sister property offering year-round luxury camping in partnership with African safari camp specialists Luxury Frontiers. Set to open in early 2017, Nayara Tented Resort will have 24 tents, all about 1,000 square feet, each with its own platform, plunge pool and bathroom. There is also a restaurant, a fire pit and a spa. Visit arenalnayara.com.

Glamping in Costa Rica. CONTRIBUTED

African safari

Tourcan Vacations has a Kenya Safari deal going for 2016, with departures in February, March, June, October and November. A seven-night trip from Nairobi takes you to the Samburu and Masai Mara national reserves, Lake Naivasha and Mount Kenya. Get the full wildlife experience and stay in cool tented camps and lodges. From about $3,000. Visit TourCanVacations.com.

DOUG WALLACE

Masai Mara National Reserve. CONTRIBUTED

SPAIN

Visit San Sebastian, Europe's Capital of Culture for 2016

Located in Spain's Basque Country and known to locals as Donostia, San Sebastian will officially become European Capital of Culture 2016 as of Jan. 18, a date the city is set to celebrate in a big way. There's never been a better time to discover or rediscover this seaside city with one of the most stunning bays in the Iberian Peninsula.

The Bay of La Concha has a 30-metre island in the middle. ©SHUTTERSTOCK/CHANCLOS

Getting to San Sebastian

There are three airports in the region of San Sebastian.

The closest is located 20 km from the city center with fights to Madrid and Barcelona. Other options include Biarritz airport over the border in France, which is 40 km away, or Bilbao at around 100 km away. San Sebastian has a train station in the city center with direct connections to Paris, Lisbon, Madrid and Barcelona.

The Bay of La Concha

The Bay of La Concha has been a popular site for visitors since the 19th century. Shaped like a shell, it's is home to a fine sandy beach that stretches 1.5 km and to stunning Belle Epoque buildings.

Santa Clara Island

A unique feature of this bay is its small island (around 30 m long), located close to the beach. The island is easy to reach for an afternoon escapade in peace and quiet. Visitors can stretch out a towel on the island's small beach, walk up to the lighthouse or find a quiet spot to picnic. Swimmers can even take a dip in its natural saltwater pool. In autumn, the island is accessible by foot at low tide. A boat service runs to and from the island from June 1 to September 30.

The old town

The historical center of San Sebastian is ideal for scenic strolls. Sights include the gothic-style San Vicente church and the Santa Maria basilica, both of which can be discovered inside and out. Don't miss the city center either, where the main square — Plaza de la Constitucion — is usually the focal point of any festivities.

What to eat in San Sebastian

Eating in San Sebastian is all about pintxos — or tapas in Spanish — a culinary art that you'll need to get stuck into to get a real taste of this city. Make sure you take a trip around the tapas bars in the old town. Travellers with bigger budgets can head to the Arzak family's Michelin-starred restaurant, considered one of the best in the world. With his three Michelin stars, Chef Juan Mari Arzak combines traditional Basque cuisine with modern techniques, working alongside his daughter Elena, considered one of the most talented new female chefs of the moment.

AFP

A winter travel shoe-in

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Get a cold weather workout while getting away

Some of the trees along the snowshoe trails of Mount Seymour are up to 1,000 years old. ISTOCK

Snowshoeing is one of the easiest, and least expensive, ways to exercise or get out and enjoy the winter in southern British Columbia.

If you can walk, you can snowshoe. But some people are taking the winter pastime to the extreme, making it an endurance sport.

There's room for all kinds of snowshoers on the mountains around Vancouver, including the North Shore slopes, peaks in the Callaghan Valley, and one of the newest resort areas above Howe Sound in Squamish.

All three North Shore Mountains — Seymour, Grouse and Cypress — have snowshoeing. However, they were difficult to access over the holiday season, with long traffic lines or extended delays for the shuttle service as locals rejoiced in the thick snow base that was non-existent last year.

Mount Seymour, just a 35-minute drive from Vancouver, was named the No. 1 resort for snowshoeing in North America by Snowshoe Magazine in 2012.

The mountain has about nine kilometres of maintained trails, depending on the amount of snow, and all are well marked and groomed, with little risk of getting lost. Many of the trails, located at the bottom of the ski hill, are protected from wind and allow trekkers to wander through an old-growth forest.

Erin Warkman, a supervisor in the outdoor education department at Mount Seymour, said some of the trees along the snowshoe trails are up to 1,000 years old.

"It was never all cut down, so we definitely have remnants that are very old growth. Yellow cedars can actually live to be 1,500 years old," she said.

Mount Seymour staff recommend people keep to the main trails to stay safe, but more experienced and prepared snowshoers can venture into the backcountry, as the paths also connect to the B.C. Parks trails.

Those looking for a real workout can run up Dog Mountain, a B.C. Parks trail. On a clear day, the hike boasts a spectacular view of the Lions Gate Bridge, Stanley Park and Vancouver in the distance.

Seymour also offers a drop-in snow fit class once a week.

"When you're running on snowshoes you can actually burn twice as many calories as you would burn running on the road," Warkman said. "It's really fun and it's a fantastic workout."

The trend toward snowshoeing as part of a fitness regime is growing, said Kim Ebers, marketing and sales manager at Callaghan Country, a ski resort 120 kilometres north of Vancouver on the way to Whistler.

"We have one athlete who comes and will run into the backcountry lodge — that takes most people four to five hours — in two hours," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mumbai to get 'world's first slum museum'

The teeming Indian metropolis of Mumbai — home to the neighbourhood made famous by the film Slumdog Millionaire — is to get the world's first slum museum, organizers said on Tuesday.

"It will be the first museum ever created in a slum," Spanish artist Jorge Rubio, who is behind the initiative, told AFP.

The small mobile museum will open in February for two months and display everything from pottery and textiles to recycled items, Rubio added.

The organizers of Design Museum Dharavi say they want to challenge people's perceptions of slums by highlighting the creative talent that resides in them.

More than a million people live in the maze of alleyways that make up Dharavi. AFP

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4 GREAT STAND-INS FOR POPULAR DESTINATIONS

Looking to shake up your travelscapes in 2016? For frequent flyers who've ticked off the tried and true, and for those looking for off-the-radar places, a new list from online booking site Cheapflights offers alternative travel destinations and stand-ins for everyone from the beach-lounger, foodie and city lover. **AFP**

1 Montreal instead of New Orleans

This one's for the traveling gourmet. While NOLA boasts a rousing reputation for its edible offerings and Southern, Creole cuisine — think beignets, seafood gumbo and po'boys — Montreal is listed as the Canadian equal for its rich and diverse dining scene. Among the city's culinary hall-of-famers? Smoked meat sandwiches from Schwartz's deli; the Pied de Cochon's insanely decadent poutine with foie gras; or Le Garde-Manger's lobster poutine. A weak Canadian dollar also makes travelling within Canada a particularly enticing right now.

2 Singapore over Dubai

Travelers with a taste for the high life may want to skip over Dubai for its Asian counterpart, Singapore. Like the glittering UAE city, Singapore also boasts soaring skyscrapers, palatial shopping malls like Gardens by the Bay, and Michelin-grade dining. So much so that the bible of fine gastronomy announced plans to publish its first Singaporean edition in 2016, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

3 Key West, not Maui

The island city of Key West is listed as a stand-in for Maui, with its gold sand beaches, sunsets and laid-back vibe — also a closer and more affordable destination compared to Hawaii. An idyllic itinerary? Biking through the Old Town past restored Victorian homes and cottages, eating fresh seafood by the water and eating key lime pie on weathered picnic tables.

4 Barbados over The Bahamas

While The Bahamas may be a popular port of call for cruises, travellers looking for a quieter beach vacation may want to consider Barbados. If you're looking for a generic, all-inclusive resort, The Bahamas has those aplenty. Barbados may be less developed, but offers a higher chance of soaking in the sun away from the madding crowds.

*Some conditions apply. Visit itravel2000.com or call us for details. Savings already reflected in the price displayed. Package Fares: Ottawa departures. Prices shown are per person in Canadian dollars, based on double occupancy and include all taxes, surcharges and mandatory fees and do not include travel insurance and other travel related expenses. Prices are for select departure dates and are accurate and subject to availability at advertising deadline, errors and omissions excepted, and subject to change. Packages are subject to availability at time of booking and are subject to change without notice. New bookings only. Not valid on group bookings. 8635919 Canada Inc. (dba as itravel2000) is a TICO licensed company. tico.ca #50021097. 1004 Middlegate Road, Suite 3000, Mississauga, ON, L4Y 1M4.

metro SPORTS

"I've never been a part-owner of anything ... I'm still part-owner of an '84 Toyota Camry with my brother": Will Ferrell, part-owner of LAFC

Plight of black hockey players examined in doc

FILM

Screening of Soul on Ice a part of NHL's diversity drive

As Damon Kwame Mason's childhood love of hockey reignited in his later years, he couldn't help but notice the lack of visible role models in the NHL.

"That burning question was always in my mind: 'How come there's not a lot of black players in this league up until now?'" recalled the Toronto native, who played organized hockey for two years and grew up idolizing Montreal Canadiens legend Guy Lafleur.

In Soul on Ice: Past, Present & Future, the filmmaker explores the involvement of black athletes in hockey from the minors to the NHL. The award-winning documentary delves deeper into the legacy of players who broke racial barriers and overcame tremendous adversity to leave their mark on the game.

Damon will join NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and Capitals owner Ted Leonsis at a private screening of the film in Washington on Wednesday. Retired NHL stars Grant Fuhr, Anson Carter, Kevin Weekes and Willie O'Ree — the first black hockey player in the NHL — are among the invited guests.

Filmmaker Damon Kwame Mason is pictured at a Toronto community rink as he promotes his documentary Soul On Ice. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The event will serve as the launch for a variety of NHL activities coinciding with Black History Month in February, and continuing through March with Hockey Is For Everyone Month.

Mason was inspired to further explore the history of black hockey players after moving in 2005 to Edmonton, where he worked as a radio announcer. He befriended members of the Oilers, including now-retired Georges Laraque, with whom he co-hosted a show.

> **What example is better for our youth than to be a winner and to persevere through adversity.**
> Damon Kwame Mason

Mason learned of the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes formed in Halifax in 1895 — 22 years before the NHL was born.

"I was floored, because at that time I was in my 30s and I thought to myself: 'If I don't know this information ... how many Canadians don't know this information? How many black Canadians don't know this information?'"

The film also turns its lens on other trailblazers like Herb Carnegie, whom Mason interviewed just over a week before his death in 2012.

Carnegie suited up for the Quebec Aces and could have been the NHL's first black player. He was invited to the New York Rangers' training camp in 1948, and was offered chances to play with the team's farm club — which he turned down because the pay was too low, citing discrimination.

Also featured are NHL players like Wayne Simmonds of the Philadelphia Flyers and Joel Ward of the San Jose Sharks. Despite increased diversity at the NHL level, neither have been immune from discriminatory acts.

Simmonds had a banana thrown at him during a preseason game in London, Ont., in 2011. And while playing for the Capitals, Joel Ward was subjected to racial slurs on Twitter after his overtime goal eliminated the Boston Bruins from the 2012 Stanley Cup playoffs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ONLINE

Go to soulonicemovie.com for more on the documentary.

IN BRIEF

Habs deal Tokarski to Ducks
The Montreal Canadiens traded goaltender Dustin Tokarski to the Anaheim Ducks on Thursday in exchange for right-winger Max Friberg.

Friberg, who has played in six career NHL games with the Ducks, has 17 points (5-12) in 25 games with AHL San Diego this season.

Tokarski has a 1-3-0 record with the Canadiens this season with a 3.19 goals-against average and an .878 save percentage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL doles out fines for diving to Farnham, Ehlers
The NHL fined New Jersey Devils forward Bobby Farnham and Winnipeg Jets forward Nikolaj Ehlers $2,000 each Thursday for diving earlier this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pro women's hockey league player in hospital
A person familiar with the situation says a professional women's league hockey player, hurt when she struck the boards at Gillette Stadium the day before the NHL's Winter Classic, remains in the hospital. The injuries sustained by Denna Laing of the Boston Pride have not been disclosed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Thursday night's Senators game against the Florida Panthers at Canadian Tire Centre.

MLB

Griffey goes to Hall with Mariners cap

Ken Griffey Jr. will go into the Hall of Fame with a Seattle Mariners cap and Mike Piazza will have a New York Mets hat.

The pair made their announcements at a news conference Thursday, a day after they were elected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Griffey spent a lengthy period of his career with Cincinnati, and Piazza reached the major leagues with the Los Angeles Dodgers. Griffey will be the first Mariners player in the Hall.

Ken Griffey Jr. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Induction ceremonies will be held in Cooperstown on July 24.

Known for wearing his cap backwards, Griffey joked that Piazza "wore it backwards more than I did." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BASEBALL IN BRIEF

Dodgers sign Japanese hurler to eight-year deal
The Dodgers have finalized a $25-million, eight-year contract with Japanese pitcher Kenta Maeda, a deal that could be worth $106.2 million if he stays healthy.

The team introduced the 27-year-old right-hander during a news conference Thursday at Dodger Stadium.

Maeda has had elbow issues but says he's confident he will be able to pitch a full season in the major leagues. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bean promoted within MLB's inclusion division
Billy Bean has been promoted to vice-president for social responsibility and inclusion by Major League Baseball.

Bean came out as gay in 1999, four years after his final major-league season. He was hired by MLB in July 2014 as a consultant and given the title ambassador for inclusion.

Bean will oversee MLB's workplace code of conduct and anti-bullying programming. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL

Stampeders sign Tate to extension

Quarterback Drew Tate has signed a contract extension with the Calgary Stampeders.

The 31-year-old from Baytown, Texas, returns for an eighth season with the CFL club.

Tate was the heir apparent to Calgary's starting job when the club dealt veteran Henry Burris to Hamilton in 2012, but multiple injuries limited Tate to just 153 completions over the next two seasons.

He was Bo Levi Mitchell's backup in both 2014 and 2015.

> **Quality and depth at the quarterback position is very important.**
> Stampeders GM John Hufnagel

Tate has often been used in short-yardage situations and scored a league-high 10 rushing TDs in 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Playoffs precious to Peterson

NFL

Post-season has not been kind to Vikings ace with miles on clock

Minnesota's Adrian Peterson has played in a total of four playoff games. HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

The Minnesota Vikings head into the playoffs looking like a team on the rise, with a second-year head coach pushing the right buttons, a 23-year-old quarterback still figuring things out and a young, fast, aggressive defence that only figures to get better in the coming seasons.

For all those reasons, the optimism is high that Sunday's game against Seattle will be the first of many playoff appearances for the Vikings, the next step in their journey from rebuilding to competitor to contender.

Adrian Peterson knows better. The 30-year-old running back was 25 once, and he remembers his first trip to the playoffs in 2009 and thinking of chance after chance that would follow it. He has only played three playoff games since that first one and also watched his career careen into the ditch in 2015 when he missed 15 games while addressing child abuse charges.

So no matter what path the franchise appears to be on, no matter how much momentum seems to be building as the new core comes together, Peterson knows moments like Sunday are to be savoured.

"Here we are now, 2016. Here I am 30," Peterson said after practice Thursday. "I don't know how much longer I'm going to play. You kind of look back and say, 'Wow, we really haven't had too many opportunities.' You're able to see how fast time really goes without making it to the post-season. So the sense of urgency is definitely there on behalf of us."

Widely considered one of the best players of his generation, Peterson saw his image and his march up the career rushing ladder take a serious hit last season when it was revealed that he whipped his 4-year-old son with wooden switch. He sat out nearly the entire season, fought with the NFL over his punishment and the Vikings over his future but ultimately returned to Minnesota to resume his career.

Playing at an age in which most running backs start to experience a steep decline, Peterson led the NFL in yards rushing with 1,485 and scored 11 touchdowns to help the Vikings (11-5) win their first NFC North title since 2009 — the only season in which Peterson has won a playoff game.

> **"I don't know how much longer I'm going to play. You kind of look back and say, 'Wow, we really haven't had too many opportunities.'**
> Adrian Peterson

The Seahawks held him to eight carries for 18 yards when the two teams met in Minnesota on Dec. 6. The success against the run helped Seattle blow the Vikings out 38-7, and Peterson knows the running game has to be a bigger part of the game plan on Sunday.

"They did a good job of forcing us out of the run," Peterson said. "We're going to have to do a great job of being balanced, making sure our run game gets going." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROUNDUP

- There appears to be growing optimism that injured Packers left tackle David Bakhtiari could be ready for Sunday's wild-card playoff game against the Washington Redskins.

  Quarterback Aaron Rodgers' blind-side protector missed the final two games of the regular season with an ankle injury.

- The Pittsburgh Steelers are turning to a pair of relative unknowns for a wild-card game in Cincinnati Saturday night. Fitzgerald Toussaint and Jordan Todman will likely share the load at running back with DeAngelo Williams slowed by a right foot injury. Williams did not practice on Thursday and wore a protective boot.

- Broncos' coach Gary Kubiak stuck to his word in naming Peyton Manning his starter even after declaring that Brock Osweiler had done nothing to deserve a demotion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp has lost two key players to injury in a League Cup game. CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER

Klopp defends tactics as injuries mount

Jurgen Klopp arrived at Liverpool in October armed with his megawatt smile and a renowned playing style: The so-called "Gegenpressen" approach that was the key to his success in Germany with Borussia Dortmund.

It involved attempting to win the ball back by defending vigorously from the front, closing down opponents regardless of where they are on the field, and playing at "full throttle" for the full 90 minutes.

The result? Two Bundesliga titles and a place in the Champions League final in 2013. Klopp has transferred the physically demanding approach to Anfield and the grueling English soccer calendar, but there's a growing worry that he is running Liverpool's players into the ground amid the team's hectic schedule of Premier League, Europa League and League Cup matches.

> **"Sometimes you are just unlucky with injuries.**
> Liverpool's Adam Lallana

Liverpool currently has 11 players injured, six with hamstring problems. The team's injury woes intensified Thursday when playmaker Philippe Coutinho was ruled out until February by Klopp, who is without a senior centre back for the third round of the FA Cup against Exeter on Friday — Liverpool's 31st game this season.

Local media reported later Thursday that winger Jordon Ibe has joined the injury list, also with a hamstring problem, to make it 12 players sidelined.

Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce said Klopp has underestimated the ferocity of English soccer, adding the effects of a "high-tempo pressing game from the top end has kicked in now."

Klopp sees it differently. "We know about our situation, we know in most of the cases about the reasons," he said Thursday. I knew about the intensity of the football here." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Canuck has been named top money man for the UFC

Nakisa Bidarian took over this week as chief financial officer of the mixed martial arts juggernaut, promoted from executive vice-president of strategy and business ventures.

The 38-year-old from Toronto joined the UFC four years ago after financial jobs in Canada, the U.S., and United Arab Emirates.

"I never envisioned myself ending up with the UFC," Bidarian said with a chuckle Thursday from Las Vegas. "I worked for a lot of large corporations when I was in Abu Dhabi, invested in a lot of large corporations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manziel's trouble continues with driving offence

Troubled Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel was cited for driving with expired license plates last weekend before he was spotted in Las Vegas.

According to police in North Olmsted, Ohio, Manziel was stopped at 8:28 a.m. on Saturday while driving on Interstate 480. Police gave him a traffic ticket for the expired plates. Manziel can pay a $125 fine for the offence.

Manziel was in the NFL's concussion protocol last week after the team said he got hurt in a Dec. 27 game. He wasn't required to be at Cleveland's season finale Sunday, but owner Jimmy Haslam said the 23-year-old failed to report to the team's facility for a required medical assessment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banned Platini bows out of FIFA presidential race

Michel Platini is giving up his bid to become the next FIFA president.

Platini told The Associated Press on Thursday that he remains determined to overturn the 8-year ban he was handed by FIFA's ethics committee last month, but that the deadline for the Feb. 26 election is too short and renders his candidacy impossible.

"I'm withdrawing from the race for FIFA presidency. The timing is not good for me," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Blueberry Baked French Toast

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Spend a few minutes tonight putting this together. Then invite some people over for brunch tomorrow morning. They're not going to believe how easy this decadent French toast was (so don't tell them).

Ready in
Prep time: overnight
Serves 6

Ingredients
- 1 loaf of brioche, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 8 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp freshly grated lemon peel
- 1/8 tsp allspice
- 1/8 tsp cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1 tsp butter, for greasing the dish

Directions
1. Grease a 9- by 13-inch casserole dish. Slice your brioche into 1-inch cubes and place in the dish.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk eggs, milk, sugar, lemon zest, allspice, cinnamon and salt. Pour this mixture over the bread. Gently stir the bread cubes and egg mixture in the dish, making sure to press the bread down so it's coated in egg. Then stir in the blueberries so they are scattered throughout the dish. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.
3. Remove the dish from the refrigerator and allow it to rest for a few minutes. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
4. Place the dish in the centre of the oven to bake to bake for 35 to 40 minutes, until the bread is lightly browned and the eggy mixture is bubbling.
5. Slice and serve with warm maple syrup or agave nectar.

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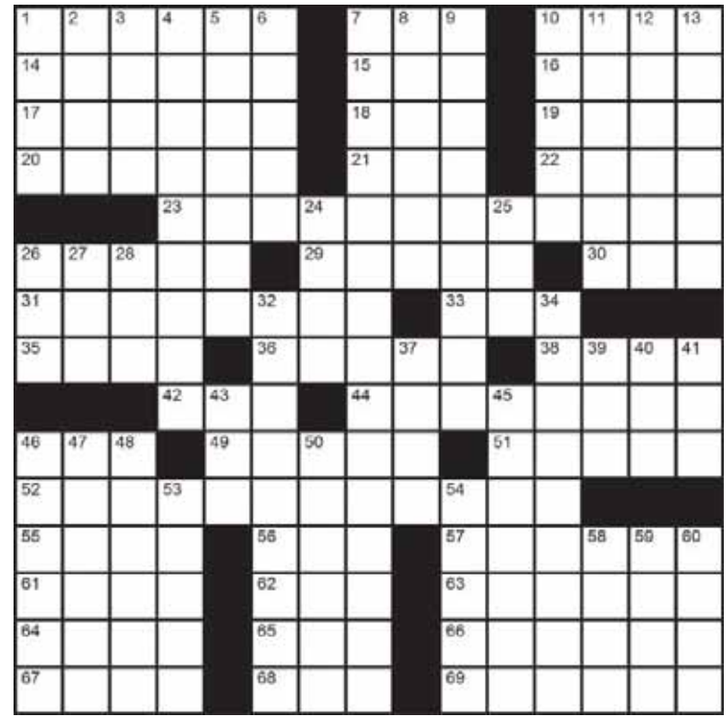
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Crispy laundry supply
7. Prince Valiant's son
10. Songstress Suzanne
14. Cab Calloway's signature syllables
15. New
16. Bear, in Boucherville
17. President Ronald _
18. "Who am _ _ say?"
19. _-drop
20. Medieval silk fabric
21. Male mortal
22. Military cap
23. Office name/number jotter-downer: 2 wds.
26. Mythical wife scorned by Jason
29. Comics photojournalist Jimmy
30. Jessie J's "Who You _"
31. Tom Selleck's 1980s series: 2 wds.
33. Hallucinogenic letters
35. "Now!"
36. James _ (Canadian violin virtuoso)
38. Alias acronyms
42. Manfred Mann hit: "_ La La"
44. _-_ oats (Breakfast serving)
46. Whiz
49. TSN's "That's Hockey _" (NOTE: Answer has a number in it!)
51. Eyries
52. Users of this invention by Hamilton businessman Ron Foxcroft include pro sports associations and coast guards: word + number + word
55. Edith Bunker's daughter, to pals
56. Coop dweller
57. Highway crews, at times
61. Love antonym
62. 'Brain' suffix
63. 2002 Atom Egoyan film
64. Sarah McLachlan song
65. Edmonton transport service [acronym]
66. Western Ontario township on Agimak Lake
67. Chemist's table salt
68. Mr. Asner's
69. Scotland's famous Loch, and others

DOWN
1. Stock units [abbr.]
2. __ knot
3. Singer Mr. Lambert
4. Some military units
5. Le _ (Montreal-founded fashion chain)
6. Perfects
7. Wild feelings: 2 wds.
8. Labels anew
9. You and only you: 3 wds.
10. Smirnoff product
11. Discoverer's exclamation!
12. Bellyacher
13. Aim
24. Student, e.g.
25. Heavy wts.
26. _&_'_ (Chocolate treats)
27. Deplete
28. US filmmakers org.
32. When that was happening...
34. Roy Rogers' wife who wrote the Western tune "Happy Trails": 2 wds.
37. French 'winters' opposite
39. The Sunshine Band singer's
40. Latin for 'or'
41. Toronto's Dundas, et al.
43. "Halloween _ _: Twenty Years Later" (1998)
45. Magnify
46. Blanket type
47. "Escape (The Pina _ Song)"
48. Strikingly unique
50. Gossiper's info starter...: 2 wds.
53. Avril Lavigne song: number + word
54. American rapper, _-_
58. Periods
59. Rush
60. Jeanne d'Arc, et al.

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
If something from your past catches up with you don't ignore it. This is a wonderful opportunity to make amends for something you did that you have always regretted. A simple "sorry" will most likely be enough.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
A couple things are going wrong — thanks to retrograde Mercury. Watch out where joint money matters are concerned, don't trust others more than you have to.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your luck will change for the better but you need to look ahead and make plans. You also need to believe that you deserve it when good things come your way.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't start making claims and accusations that can't be backed up by facts. The planets warn you need to be extra careful.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Jupiter turns retrograde today so there's a real danger you'll go over the top. Careful that you don't waste all the good work you've done over the past few weeks, especially where your cashflow is concerned.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Not only are others being demanding but they also believe that you owe them whatever it is they desire. That's nonsense. If anything they owe you for being so easy-going and forgiving. Toughen up!

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is no need to push yourself, even though others may be urging you to do so. The planets say take it easy. You're entitled to some down time now and again.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you take a risk then try to make it one where, if you lose, it won't cost you an arm and a leg. Jupiter, planet of excess, is beginning one of its retrograde phases, so Lady Luck is unlikely to be on your side.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Most of your worries have no basis in reality, so stop thinking that the world is out to get you and get out into the world. Your thoughts create your reality. As you think, so you are.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be tough but you are not invincible and you need to keep that in mind. With Jupiter, planet of luck, turning retrograde you may find that your path isn't as easy as it has been.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be anxious about something that just a short while ago you would not have wasted a moment's time on. Overrule your anxiety as good things will be coming your way.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
If you allow yourself to get angry today you will probably say things you regret. Both in your personal life and in your work you must think before you speak. Engage your brain before you open your mouth.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

1			3	9		4		
		2						
	8		4					1
5		3		8				
4								6
				7		5		2
8					6		3	
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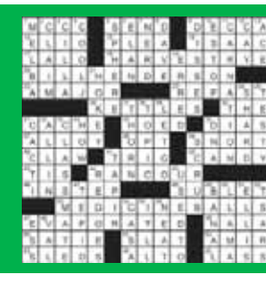

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5	9	6	7	1	2	3	4	8
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9	6	8	3	4	7	5	1	2
7	5	3	1	2	6	9	8	4
6	8	9	5	3	1	4	2	7
4	7	5	2	9	8	1	3	6
3	2	1	6	7	4	8	9	5

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